

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-22 during prosecution of this patent application. Applicants are not conceding in this patent application that the subject matter encompassed by said cancelled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, since the claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of this patent application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter encompassed by said amended and cancelled claims, and to pursue other claims, in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The Examiner indicated claims 23-55 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowed subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-11, 17, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Okumura et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0113218, Pub. Date 08/22/02, Filed Date 04/14/99).

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Okumura et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0113218, Pub. Date 08/22/02, Filed Date 04/14/99) as applied to claims 1-7, 9-11, 17, 19 and 21 above, and in view of Barringer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,198,525 B1, Pat. Date 03/06/01, Filed date 02/19/99).

The Examiner rejected claims 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Okumura et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0113218, Pub. Date 08/22/02, Filed Date 04/14/99) as applied to claims 1-7, 9-11, 17, 19 and 21 above, and in view of Page et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,669,060 B1, Pat. Date 06/13/72, Filed Date 09/24/70).

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 102 and § 103 rejections with the following arguments.

Claims Objections

Office Action Summary indicates claims 12-16 and 18 are objected to, but the objection is not stated in the Office Action.

Applicants contend the Examiners objection to claims 12-16 and 18 is moot in light of Applicants canceling claims 12-16 and 18.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-11, 17, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Okumura et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0113218, Pub. Date 08/22/02, Filed Date 04/14/99).

Applicants contend the Examiners rejections of claims 2-7, 9-11, 17, 19 and 21 are moot in light of Applicants canceling claims 2-7, 9-11, 17, 19 and 21.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Okumura et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0113218, Pub. Date 08/22/02, Filed Date 04/14/99) as applied to claims 1-7, 9-11, 17, 19 and 21 above, and in view of Barringer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,198,525 B1, Pat. Date 03/06/01, Filed date 02/19/99).

Applicants contend the Examiners rejection of claim 8 is moot in light of Applicants canceling claim 8.

The Examiner rejected claims 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Okumura et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0113218, Pub. Date 08/22/02, Filed Date 04/14/99) as applied to claims 1-7, 9-11, 17, 19 and 21 above, and in view of Page et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,669,060 B1, Pat. Date 06/13/72, Filed Date 09/24/70).

Applicants contend the Examiners rejections of claims 220 and 22 are moot in light of Applicants canceling claims 20 and 22.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0456 (IBM).

Respectfully submitted,
FOR: Allen et al.

Dated: 5/5/08

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